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COMOR-D-25

11 November 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Col. James E. Mahon  
Joint Chiefs of Staff

SUBJECT: Photographic Coverage of  
Laos-North Viet Nam

1. On advice of your representative at the meeting of the Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance on November 4, 1960, I am submitting below the requirements views of the various members of that Committee as they relate to the subject area.

2. The Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, U. S. Army, has brought to the attention of the COMOR the need of the Army for photographic coverage of certain areas in North Viet Nam and Laos. It is indicated that the Pathet Lao forces in Laos are being furnished with military equipment and supplies from North Viet Nam. Also of concern is the possibility that the North Viet Nam forces may intervene directly in the Laos internal conflict, and there may be evident a build-up of traffic, supplies, and equipment to support such operations. The attached map outlines the principal military areas of interest and the presently known supply and border crossing points between North Viet Nam and Laos.

3. Previous photo reconnaissance of some of the terrain in the area suggests that the information desired would be discernible from photography. Furthermore, it is understood that at the present time there is no other feasible means of obtaining the information.

4. The Navy reports that CINCPACFLT within the past week indicated he has reconnaissance requirements in Laos and other Far Eastern countries within the area of his responsibility, though

JCS review(s)  
completed.

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there is no indication of the priority of these requirements. The other members of the COMOR have indicated that they would be interested in acquiring photographic coverage as proposed and would be pleased to submit their requirements should any reconnaissance take place. However they do not consider their requirements to be of sufficient priority to urge reconnaissance at this time.

JAMES O. REBER  
Chairman  
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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Attachment to Cy 1 only:  
Map

Copy 1--JCS TCO  
2--JCS TCO  
3--OSD  
4--OACSI TCO  
5, 6, 7--ONI TCO  
8, 9--AFCIN TCO  
10--NSA TCO  
11--State TCO

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Copy 12--DDP  
13--AC/DPD  
14--DDI(P) TCO  
15--OCI TCO  
16--OSI TCO  
17--ORR TCO  
18--Director, PIC  
19--CIA TSO  
20--C/DMD/PIC  
21--DDP TCO  
22--IO/Ops/DPD  
23--SO/DPD  
24-30--- C/SRS/DPD

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